

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's response filed December 28, 2011 is acknowledged. Claims 39, 41, 55, 74, 77-86 are amended and claim 87 is newly added. Claims 39-87 are pending and further considered on the merits.

Response to Amendment

In light of applicant's amendment, the examiner withdraws all grounds of rejection set forth in the office action dated July 28, 2011.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. **Claims 39-87** are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest related art does not anticipate or render obvious the novel aspect of applicant's invention, namely an integrated blood treatment module comprising a degassing device, wherein the degassing device comprises a first chamber and a second chamber, wherein the downstream portion of the second chamber extends completely around an upper region of the first chamber and only partially around a lower region of the first chamber. This novel feature is advantageous in that it provides for a degassing device having a minimal internal volume, and in which there is no area of relative stagnation for a liquid circulated through the degassing device.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DIRK BASS whose telephone number is (571)270-7370. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri (9am-4pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vickie Kim can be reached on (571) 272-0579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DRB/
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/KRISHNAN S MENON/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1777